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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Radio Service

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Housekeepers' Chat Tuesday, Oct. 11.

((NOT FOR PUBLICATION))

Subject: "Wash Day Wisdom"

ANNOUNCEMENT: How to wash silk hose, and silk and rayon underwear, how to take care of a washing machine, how to bleach and rinse clothes, are the points discussed today. Dinner suggestion from the U. S. Bureau of Home Economics.
Publication available: Farmers' Bulletin 1497, "Methods and Equipment for Home Laundering." Tells how to lighten the work, on wash day.

The ambitious title of today's "Chat" is "Wash Day Wisdom." I feel well qualified to speak on this subject, for I have spent many Monday mornings, getting the "wash" on the line. I began in the Early Washboard period, when Jimmie and I carried water, a distance of two blocks, so that Mother might get the boiler on the stove, before breakfast.

Then came the joyful day when Father bought a hand-power washing machine. Jimmie and I were supposed to operate it, working in shifts of five minutes a-piece. Theoretically, it was a grand idea, but it didn't work. As soon as Jimmie's first five minutes were up, he would disappear, and no amount of calling and whistling could reach him, until lunch time.

But I'm getting off the track. I meant to give you a scholarly lecture on washing machines this morning. I'm not going to say that washing machines save time, and labor, and dispositions, and clothes, because everybody knows that. But I wonder if everybody knows how to take care of a washing machine, to make it last a long time, and do the best work. In the first place, one should wash the correct amount of clothes in the machine, as specified in the little book that comes with it. Overloading is hard on the clothes, and hard on the machine. The water line is marked on most machines. Too much water causes excessive splashing, and in many cases cuts down the efficiency of the washer.

After using the machine, rinse it thoroughly with hot water, operate it for a short time, drain, and dry. Always leave the drain faucet open, and prop the lid up an inch or two, to allow free circulation of air. Cylinders should be removed, and thoroughly dried. You can prevent much discoloration of the metal tubs, by drying them carefully. If you have an electric machine, pull out the electric plug when you're through washing, and coil the connecting cord where it will not collect moisture or dirt. Never oil or adjust any part of the washer, while the cord is connected to the current source.

The other day a radio friend wrote for information about choosing a washing machine. Since that is too long a subject to discuss by radio, I am sending this listener a copy of a bulletin published last year by the Bureau of Home Economics. The bulletin is called "Methods and Equipment for Home Laundrying." It gives excellent suggestions for equipping a home laundry, and doing a family washing and ironing. It tells how to wash curtains, and sweaters, and pillows, too.

Here's another question, which is not answered in this bulletin. The question is this: "Please tell me how to wash silk stockings, so they won't be blotched and spotted, when they are dry."

The correct way to wash silk stockings, so they won't be spotted, when they are dry, is this: Wash and rinse the stockings thoroughly, but very rapidly. When you wash a stocking, run your hand into it, so the sides of the stocking cannot stick together, during the washing process. The spotting seems to be caused by the dye, passing from one part of the stocking to another.

In these days almost every family laundry has some silk and rayon garments. Good quality silk is a durable material, but it cannot be handled like ordianry cotton. For silk garments, use only lukewarm water, for both washing and rinsing. Make a good suds of a neutral soap, and wash with as little rubbing as possible. Be careful that the silk does not come in contact with washing powders which bleach, because these washing powders may rot the material. Ordinary bleaching powder, which is sodium hypo-chlorite, is especially destructive to silk materials.

Rayon fabrics should also be washed carefully. The greatest difficulty with rayon is that the fiber is weaker, when the material is wet, and any sudden strain will tear the material. However, the rayon on the market now, gives better service than the rayon first put on the market. Wash it as you do silk. Do not rub the rayon, and wash and rinse it as rapidly as possible.

The next question is one which may interest all of you. "Dear Aunt Sammy: I wish you would tell me whether it is always necessary to boil clothes, and please tell me the correct way to rinse them."

Clothes may be boiled, if you want to disinfect them thoroughly, but boiling is not necessary. Under good conditions of washing, and rinsing, and drying, the boiling process may be omitted. Let's not add any unnecessary work, on wash day. If you do boil your clothes, wring them from the wash water, place them in fresh, hot, soapy water, and boil for five or ten minutes. If you boil them longer, they may turn yellow. When you lift the clothes from the boiler, let them drain as much as possible.

If the clothes are very dirty, or very yellow, you may want to bleach them, while they boil. Some persons use kerosene or turpentine, in the proportion of one to six tablespoons, to a boilerful of water. I don't like to use kerosene or turpentine, however, because it is so difficult to remove the odor, especially if you use hard water. Both kerosene and turpentine are inflammable, and turpentine is hard on the hands. An easier, but more

expensive method, of whitening clothes is to add the juice of one or two lemons, to a boilerful of water.

Now about the rinsing. Clothes should be rinsed in plenty of hot, clear, soft water. Cold water hardens the soap, and makes it hard to remove. Never put bluing in the first rinse water. All soap and washing powders should be removed from the clothes, before they are put into the bluing water. It is important that clothes be well rinsed, because soap and washing powders will weaken and yellow them, if allowed to remain on them indefinitely.

Let's come out of the laundry now, and talk about dinner. How about lamb chops for today? Lamb Chops; Sweet Potatoes; and a Vegetable Salad, with a tart dressing. If you have Lamb Chops, don't forget to serve them piping hot, from a hot platter, on hot plates. If I should forget to remind you to serve lamb and mutton piping hot, the Recipe Lady would never speak to me again. She's very finicky, that way. And of course, if you do not serve lamb and mutton hot, the fat will get cool, and grainy.

Let's repeat the menu: Lamb Chops; Sweet Potatoes; and a Vegetable Salad, with a tart dressing. What's wrong with that meal? Nothing, except that there's not enough of it. We need a dessert. We can't have pie, because we had pie yesterday. Let's have Baked Peaches with Cake -- that makes a well-balanced meal. Get some big yellow peaches, if you can. Peel them, and cut them in two. Place them in a shallow pan, with the pit side up. Sprinkle them lightly with sugar, dot with butter, and add a little salt. Don't forget the salt. Then bake the peaches in the oven, or broil them under a flame, until they are tender, and lightly browned. Serve them with a hot sauce.

Now I think our menu is complete: Lamb Chops; Sweet Potatoes; Vegetable Salad; and Baked Peaches with Cake.

I know you'll be glad to hear that the Radio Cookbooks will be ready the last of this month. The Menu Specialist and I have gone over every word of the three hundred recipes, to be sure there are no mistakes in the book. Every homekeeper who listens regularly to the Housekeepers' Chats, broadcast from Station _____, is entitled to a free copy of the Radio Cookbook. If you wrote in for the book last year, do not write again, because we have your name and address on the list, and the book will be sent to you. But if you have never written for a copy of the Radio Cookbook, send your name and address to Station _____, and the book will be sent to you. I believe you will agree with me, that it is one of the best collections of recipes you ever saw.

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